



Catherine Dimitruk, NRPC
Chair
David Snedeker, NVDA
Vice-Chair
Charlie Baker, CCRPC
Secretary/Treasurer

February 28, 2023

Representative Michael Marcotte, Chair
House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633

RE: FY24 Appropriations

Dear Chair Marcotte and Members of the House Committee on Commerce and Economic Development,

On behalf of the Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies (the state association for Vermont's regional planning commissions), thank you for your work to address Vermont's economy and community development. Our towns and villages need help. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking full advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. We, as the eleven regional planning commissions (RPCs), want to provide the help that our towns need.

To do this, we are asking the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding from the property transfer tax (PTT) to the RPCs. Supporting letters from each RPC are attached.

The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The PTT funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. And receipts from the PTT have increased dramatically due to the volume of high-end real estate transactions. Now is the time to fully fund the RPCs.

- 1. Please support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the Governor's FY24 recommendation of \$4,711,650 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624. This is Sec. D.100(3)(A)**

Here are all the other budget items we support:

- 2. From Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS (28) \$29,368,000 to the Department of Economic Development for the following: (B) \$10,000,000 for Brownfields Redevelopment**

We would again request the following language clarification in this section: The Agency of Commerce and Community Development shall award the amount of

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

\$1,000,000.00 in fiscal year 2024 to regional planning commissions for the purposes of brownfields assessment. In awarding funds under this section, the Secretary, in consultation with VAPDA, shall select one regional planning commission to administer these funds. To ensure statewide availability, the selected regional planning commission shall subgrant to regional planning commissions with brownfield programs, with not more than 10 percent of the funds being used for administrative purposes.

3. From Sec. B.1100 FISCAL YEAR 2024 ONE-TIME GENERAL FUND APPROPRIATIONS (27) \$35,650,000 to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the following:
 - (D) \$500,000 for Municipal Bylaw Modernization Grants established in 24 V.S.A. § 4307, to assist municipalities in updating their bylaws to reflect the changes proposed in H.68 as introduced on January 19, 2023

We generally support additional investments in housing, economic development, land conservation, transportation, and climate/energy. Please let us know if you have any specific questions on specific budget items.

Thank you for your consideration and, as always, please let us know if any testimony would be helpful.

Best regards,

Vermont Association of Planning and Development Agencies
Adam Lougee, Addison County Regional Planning Commission
Bill Colvin, Bennington County Regional Commission
Christian Meyer, Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission
Charlie Baker, Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission
Tasha Wallis, Lamoille County Planning Commission
Jason Rasmussen, Mount Ascutney Regional Commission
David Snedeker, Northeastern Vermont Development Association
Catherine Dimitruk, Northwest Regional Planning Commission
Devon Neary, Rutland Regional Planning Commission
Peter Gregory, Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission
Chris Company, Windham Regional Commission

Attachment

Cc: Committee Members

Strengthening the Capability of Governments

www.vapda.org ~ tel. (802) 524-5958 ~ 75 Fairfield Street ~ St. Albans, VT 05478

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

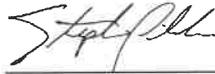
14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 www.acrpc.org Phone: 802.388.3141

February 24, 2023

RESOLUTION

As the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Executive Board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Stephen Pilcher, Chair, Monkton



Shannon Haggett, Vice Chair Vergennes



Ross Conrad, Treasurer, Middlebury

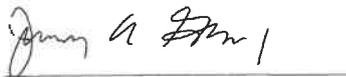

[Ross E Conrad \(Feb 27, 2023 10:38 EST\)](#)

James Dayton, Secretary, Panton

Cheryl Brinkman, Vergennes


[Cheryl L Brinkman \(Feb 27, 2023 15:43 EST\)](#)

Jeremy Grip, Ripton



Arabella Holzapfel, Ferrisburgh


[Arabella Holzapfel \(Feb 27, 2023 16:32 EST\)](#)

Addison
Lincoln
Salisbury

Bridport
Middlebury
Shoreham

Bristol
Monkton
Starksboro

Cornwall
New Haven
Vergennes

Ferrisburgh
Orwell
Waltham

Goshen
Panton
Weybridge

Leicester
Ripton
Whiting



Addison County
Regional Planning Commission



Bennington County Regional Commission

210 SOUTH STREET • SUITE 6 • BENNINGTON, VERMONT 05201 • (802) 442-0713

February 24, 2023

At its duly warned meeting of February 24, 2023, the Bennington County Regional Commission's Executive Committee considered and unanimously approved the following motion:

As members of the Executive Committee of the Bennington County Regional Planning Commission, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPC's has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPC's use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPC's, increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Respectfully,

Daniel Monks, Bennington

Nick Zaiac, Arlington

Cinda Morse, Shaftsbury

Dimitri Garder, North Bennington

Shelia Kearns, Sandgate

James Salerno, Shaftsbury



February 24, 2023

As commissioners for the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Janet Shatney, Commissioner, City of Barre

Robert Wernecke, Commissioner, Town of Berlin

Jan Ohlsson, Alternate, Town of Calais

Alan Quackenbush, Commissioner, Town of Duxbury

Ronald Krauth, Commissioner, Town of Middlesex

Dara Torre, Commissioner, Town of Moretown

Lee Cattaneo, Commissioner, Town of Orange

Jerry D'Amico, Commissioner, Town of Roxbury

Alexis Leacock, Commissioner, Town of Warren

Peter Carbee, Commissioner, Town of Washington

Richard Turner, Commissioner, Town of Williamstown

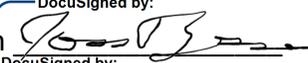
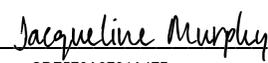
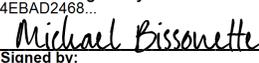
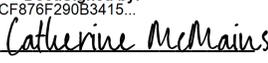
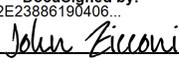
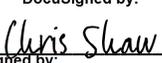
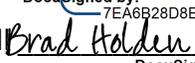
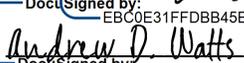
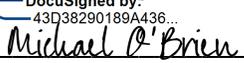
Michael Gray, Commissioner, Town of Woodbury



110 West Canal Street, Suite 202
Williston, VT 05404-2109
802-846-4490
www.ccrpcvt.org

February 24, 2023

As Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPC's has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPC's use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPC's, increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

- Joss Besse, Town of Bolton 
DocuSigned by: 2917A671B8524E2...
- Garret Mott, Buel's Gore 
DocuSigned by: F53996F2311C4DB...
- Andy Montroll, City of Burlington _____
DocuSigned by: _____
- Dana Hanley, Charlotte 
DocuSigned by: F502E760805F44A...
- Jacqueline Murphy, Town of Colchester 
DocuSigned by: CDF570A0791A47B...
- Andy Watts, Town of Essex 
DocuSigned by: BB9D58CEB0B8468...
- Daniel Kerin, City of Essex Junction 
DocuSigned by: 8378B04EBAD2468...
- Michael Bissonette, Town of Hinesburg 
DocuSigned by: 7B3063C886354A6...
- Barbara Elliott, Town of Huntington 
DocuSigned by: CCF876F290B3415...
- Catherine McMains, Town of Jericho 
DocuSigned by: 4C896C2E06EF453...
- Chuck Wilton, Town of Milton _____
DocuSigned by: _____
- Bard Hill, Town of Richmond 
DocuSigned by: 232E23886190406...
- John Zicconi, Town of Shelburne 
DocuSigned by: 3A1840F5E8EF4B4...
- Jeff Pillsbury, Town of St. George _____
DocuSigned by: _____
- Chris Shaw, City of South Burlington 
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- Brad Holden, Town of Underhill 
DocuSigned by: CB610EB4988F497...
- Benjamin Bornstein, Town of Westford 
DocuSigned by: EBC0E31FFDBB45B...
- Andrew Watts, Town of Williston 
DocuSigned by: 43D38290189A436...
- Mike O'Brien, City of Winooski 
DocuSigned by: AAE361285D06461...



Lamoille County Planning Commission

PO Box 1637
52 Portland Street, Second Floor
Morrisville, Vermont 05661
www.lcpevt.org

(802) 888-4548 • e-mail: lcpc@lcpevt.org • fax: (802) 888-6938

February 22, 2023

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions.

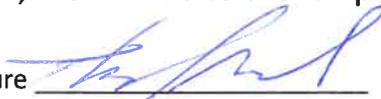
The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources.

We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Approved by the Lamoille County Planning Commission Executive Committee February 14, 2023.

Caleb Magoon, Chair, County Director
Brian Leven, Vice Chair, Stowe
Richard Goff, Secretary, Cambridge
Leo Clark, Treasurer, County Director
Francesca French, Hyde Park Village
Duncan Hastings, Johnson
Greg Paus, Hyde Park Town

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

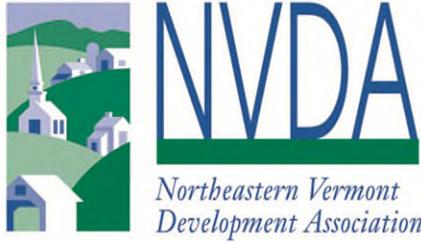
Signature  Municipality WINDSOR

Signature  Municipality BALTIMORE

Signature  Municipality Town of Reading

Signature  Municipality Town of Springfield

Signature  Municipality Town of Ludlow



MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlie Baker, Chair, VAPDA Government Affairs Committee

FROM: David Snedeker, Executive Director
Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA)

DATE: February 27, 2023

SUBJECT: RPC Legislative Funding Request

* * * * *

During its regularly scheduled meeting held on February 23, 2023, the NVDA Executive Committee voted in support of the position and common position statement regarding the full funding of Vermont's eleven regional planning commissions per statutory formula.

The following motion was made by Fred Saar and seconded by Martha Feltus:

"In recognition of the current high level of need for municipal assistance, especially in rural communities, and the expectation of the regional planning commissions to provide greater assistance to municipalities, the NVDA Executive Committee encourages the VT Legislature to follow the statutory PTT funding formula to fully fund regional planning commissions."

Motion passed unanimously. The voting members were:

Laura Dolgin (President), City of Newport
Fred Saar, Town of Waterford
Cynthia Stuart, Town of Concord
Martha Feltus, Town of Lyndon
Paul Brouha, Town of Sutton
Hope Colburn, Town of Glover

Thank you for coordinating this. Please let me know if more information is needed.

David Snedeker, Executive Director



155 Lake Street • St. Albans, VT 05478-1850 • (802) 524-5958 • (800) 564-5958 • Fax (802) 527-2948

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION FUNDING

Adopted at a Northwest Regional Planning Commission meeting on February 22, 2023, with unanimous support of those present and voting.

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. Our towns have limited capacity to meet current obligations, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs, increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Bakersfield, Bill Irwin
Bakersfield, Linda McCall
Berkshire, Vincent Hickey
Fairfax, Amber Soter
Fairfax, Sarah Hadd
Fairfield, Doug Grant
Fairfield, Brian Dubie
Fletcher, Lynn Douglas
Fletcher, Lori Ruple
Franklin, Yvon Dandurand
Georgia, Kirk Waite
Grand Isle, Howard Demars
Isle La Motte, Sylvia Jensen
Isle La Motte, Mary-Catherine Graziano
North Hero, Andy Alling
Richford, Rowena Brown
South Hero, Peter Zamore
South Hero, Bob Buermann
St. Albans City, Chip Sawyer
St. Albans Town, Marietta Scholten
St. Albans Town, Albin Voegelé
Swanton Town, Harold Garrett
Swanton Village, Elisabeth Nance



RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION

Request for Full Statutory Funding

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Dated at Rutland, this 13th day of February, 2023.

RUTLAND REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Erika Berner, Chair

The Opera House | 67 Merchants Row | Rutland, Vermont
P.O. Box 430 | Rutland, Vermont 05702
RutlandRPC.org | (802) 775-0871

COOPERATIVE PLANNING IN THE REGION

February 2023

As TRORC Executive Committee members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns.

The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs, increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

Jerry Fredrickson
Name [Jerry Fredrickson \(Feb 21, 2023 10:23 EST\)](#), **Barnard**
Gerald Fredrickson, Chairperson

William B. Emmons III
Name [William B. Emmons, III \(Feb 21, 2023 09:29 EST\)](#), **Pomfret**
William Emmons, Vice Chairperson

David Brandau
Name [David Brandau \(Feb 17, 2023 15:20 AST\)](#), **Royalton**
David Brandau, Secretary

Nancy Jones
Name [Nancy Jones \(Feb 7, 2023 14:39 EST\)](#), **Bradford**
Nancy Jones, Treasurer

Nancy Malmquist
Name [Nancy Malmquist \(Feb 17, 2023 16:52 EST\)](#), **West Fairlee**
Nancy Malmquist, At-Large

Bill Edgerton
Name [Bill Edgerton \(Feb 17, 2023 14:29 EST\)](#), **Stockbridge**
Bill Edgerton, At-Large

Gerald Fredrickson, Chair ~ Peter G. Gregory, AICP, Executive Director
128 King Farm Rd. Woodstock, VT 05091 ~ 802-457-3188 ~ trorc.org

Strafford ~ Bethel ~ Bradford ~ Braintree ~ Bridgewater ~ Brookfield ~ Chelsea ~ Corinth ~ Fairlee ~ Granville ~ Hancock ~ Hartford
Hartland ~ Newbury ~ Norwich ~ Pittsfield ~ Strafford ~ Pomfret ~ Randolph ~ Rochester ~ Royalton ~ Sharon ~ Stockbridge ~ Strafford
Theftord ~ Topsham ~ Tunbridge ~ Vershire ~ West Fairlee ~ Woodstock



February 21, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Charlie Baker, Chair
VAPDA Government Affairs Committee

FROM: Chris Campany, Executive Director

During its special meeting held last night, February 20th, our Executive Board voted unanimously in support of the position and common position statement regarding the full funding of Vermont's eleven regional planning commissions per statutory formula.

As regional planning commission board members, we are requesting support from the Legislature to provide full statutory formula funding to regional planning commissions. The capacity of our towns is strained, which has resulted in towns not taking advantage of federal and state funding opportunities. The continued underfunding of RPCs has resulted in lost opportunities and support for our towns. The Property Transfer Tax funding is the foundation that RPCs use to provide support to leverage federal and state resources. We hereby ask the Legislature to support full statutory formula funding for the RPCs increasing the funding from \$4,574,416 in FY23 to the full property transfer tax formula amount of \$10,134,624.

I was further authorized to share the names of our Executive Board members for inclusion in the list of those Vermont regional planning commissioners who have signed on in support of the aforementioned statement. These WRC commissioners are:

- Gabby Ciuffreda, Chair (Guilford)
- Jack Cunningham, Vice Chair (Wardsboro)
- Tim Arsenault, Secretary/Treasurer (Vernon)
- Stephan Chait (Halifax)
- Ann Golob (Newfane)

- Steve Lempke (Guilford)
- Bonnie North (Rockingham)
- Jim Pinkerton (Vernon)

Thank you for pulling this together. Please let me know if you have any questions.